RAINWATER TANK MAINTENANCE

Check your rainwater tank set-up

- Make sure that you have a screen across the inlet to your tank to keep it free of leaves and mosquitos.
- Cover any openings with mesh to prevent mosquitos breeding.
- Use a pump filter if you are using rainwater for toilets or laundry.
- Ensure taps using rainwater are clearly labelled.

Maintain your gutters, screens, meshes and filters

- Clear leaves from your gutters at least once a year.
- Clear any leaf build-up from leaf screens on inlets or downpipes.
- Clean any mosquito mesh with water if it gets clogged with fine particles or algae.
- Leaf eaters on downpipes will also have a mosquitos mesh inside.
- First flush diverters, if you have them, also need cleaning.
- Clean the pump filter as recommended by the manufacturer or as needed.
- Empty the tank and clear any residue from the bottom every 3-5 years. Do not get into the tank!
Connecting rainwater tanks to toilets and laundries saves more water.

If you have this connection, regularly check that the pump and automatic switch to mains water are both working properly.

- Check that the pump turns on when you flush the toilet.
- Install a level indicator on the tank so you know how much water you have.
- The mains switch should only switch to mains water if the tank is empty or the pump fails. It may be possible to check this if the tank empties during summer.
- If your system uses a float switch in the tank to top-up the tank from mains water instead of a mains switch, then check that the tank water level is correct. Frequently check that the float switch has not failed and water is not overflowing to the stormwater drain (unless rainfall is causing the overflow).

If you are not confident cleaning the tank or checking that the system is operating properly then call a plumber to inspect and repair it. A faulty system could result in an unexpectedly high water bill.

For more Smart Water Advice go to smartwatermark.org/Victoria